
HOUSE BILL 3241

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Jarrett, Fromhold, Rodne, Cox, Clibborn, Ormsby, Tom, Talcott, Haigh, Roberts, Priest, Morrell, Springer, Hunt, Green and Santos

Read first time 01/27/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating opportunities for students to earn a
2 meaningful high school diploma through college and career readiness
3 centers; amending RCW 28B.15.520 and 28B.15.067; adding a new section
4 to chapter 28A.230 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; and
5 creating new sections.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the goal of
8 Washington's education reform is for all students to meet rigorous
9 academic standards so that they are prepared for success in college,
10 work, and life. The knowledge and skills needed for high school
11 graduates to be successful in today's technology-driven workplace are
12 no less than the knowledge and skills students need to complete entry-
13 level college coursework, particularly in English and mathematics. A
14 clear target is needed for students, parents, and educators as to the
15 purpose and expectations of today's high school diploma.

16 (2) The legislature further finds that some students will take
17 longer to meet the state's standards for high school graduation. Older
18 students who are not on track to graduate with their peers should be
19 provided an appropriate learning environment. The continued education

1 of these students remains the paramount duty of the state of Washington
2 until these students turn twenty-one or achieve a meaningful high
3 school diploma.

4 (3) Therefore the legislature intends to redefine the purpose and
5 expectations of the high school diploma and provide extended learning
6 opportunities through college and career readiness centers, funded
7 under the basic education act, for students not on track to graduate
8 from high school with their peers.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state board of education shall
10 develop and propose a definition of a meaningful high school diploma to
11 be issued by public schools in Washington state. The definition must
12 reflect that high school graduates need to be ready for success in
13 college and ready for successful and gainful employment in the
14 workplace. The definition must incorporate college readiness standards
15 in at least English and mathematics as the minimum standard for high
16 school graduation. The definition must focus on the knowledge, skills,
17 and abilities that students are expected to demonstrate to receive a
18 meaningful high school diploma, rather than focusing on courses,
19 credits, and test scores.

20 (2) In developing the definition of a meaningful high school
21 diploma, the state board of education shall consult with educators,
22 parents, institutions of higher education, employers, and community
23 leaders. The board shall also work with the state board for community
24 and technical colleges, the higher education coordinating board, and
25 the work force training and education coordinating board.

26 (3) The state board of education shall submit the proposed
27 definition, along with any necessary revisions to state statutes and
28 rules, to the education committees of the legislature by December 1,
29 2007.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) For the purposes of this section and section 4 of this act,
33 "eligible student" means a student who is over age sixteen but less
34 than age twenty-one as of September 1st of the academic year the
35 student enrolls in the school district.

1 (2) School districts that enroll eligible students shall enter into
2 contracts with one or more community or technical colleges to deliver
3 courses or programs through college and career readiness centers as
4 provided under section 4 of this act to enable the students to obtain
5 a meaningful high school diploma. School districts shall report
6 eligible students who are attending college and career readiness
7 centers as district enrollment.

8 (3) An eligible student shall have the option to attend a college
9 or career readiness center or remain enrolled in a high school or other
10 school district program.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW
12 to read as follows:

13 (1) In accordance with this section, each community or technical
14 college shall make available courses or a program of study designed to
15 enable eligible students over the age of sixteen but under the age of
16 twenty-one to complete their high school education and obtain a
17 meaningful high school diploma.

18 (2) Colleges shall enter into contracts with local school districts
19 to deliver the courses or programs under this section at college and
20 career readiness centers operated by the college at locations other
21 than the high school campus. Colleges shall be reimbursed for each
22 enrolled eligible student as provided in the contract.

23 (3) Courses or programs at college and career readiness centers
24 shall be available during the day, in the evenings, on weekends, and
25 during the summer months. The college shall attempt to accommodate
26 students who are working while they are attending the programs. The
27 instruction and curriculum offered shall be age-appropriate for the
28 adult learner.

29 (4) The high school diploma for an eligible student enrolled in a
30 college and career readiness center shall be issued by the local school
31 district based on the student's completion of all state and local
32 graduation requirements.

33 (5) Colleges shall not require eligible students enrolled in a
34 college and career readiness center to pay tuition or services and
35 activities fees, however this waiver of tuition and services and
36 activities fees shall be in effect only for those courses that lead to
37 a high school diploma.

1 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28B.15.520 and 1993 sp.s. c 18 s 16 are each amended
2 to read as follows:

3 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing boards
4 of the community colleges may:

5 (1) Waive all or a portion of tuition fees and services and
6 activities fees for:

7 (a) Students (~~nineteen~~) twenty-one years of age or older who are
8 eligible for resident tuition and fee rates as defined in RCW
9 28B.15.012 through 28B.15.015 and who enroll in a course of study or
10 program which will enable them to finish their high school education
11 and obtain a high school diploma or certificate; and

12 (b) Children of any law enforcement officer or fire fighter who
13 lost his or her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty
14 while employed by any public law enforcement agency or full time or
15 volunteer fire department in this state: PROVIDED, That such persons
16 may receive the waiver only if they begin their course of study at a
17 community college within ten years of their graduation from high
18 school;

19 (2) Waive all or a portion of the nonresident tuition fees
20 differential for:

21 (a) Nonresident students enrolled in a community college course of
22 study or program which will enable them to finish their high school
23 education and obtain a high school diploma or certificate but who are
24 not eligible for the program offered under section 4 of this act. The
25 waiver shall be in effect only for those courses which lead to a high
26 school diploma or certificate; and

27 (b) Up to forty percent of the students enrolled in the regional
28 education program for deaf students, subject to federal funding of such
29 program.

30 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28B.15.067 and 2003 c 232 s 4 are each amended to read
31 as follows:

32 (1) Tuition fees shall be established under the provisions of this
33 chapter.

34 (2) Beginning with the 2003-04 academic year and ending with the
35 2008-09 academic year, reductions or increases in full-time tuition
36 fees for resident undergraduates shall be as provided in the omnibus
37 appropriations act.

1 (3) Beginning with the 2003-04 academic year and ending with the
2 2008-09 academic year, the governing boards of the state universities,
3 the regional universities, The Evergreen State College, and the state
4 board for community and technical colleges may reduce or increase full-
5 time tuition fees for all students other than resident undergraduates,
6 including summer school students and students in other self-supporting
7 degree programs. Percentage increases in full-time tuition fees may
8 exceed the fiscal growth factor. Reductions or increases may be made
9 for all or portions of an institution's programs, campuses, courses, or
10 students.

11 (4) Academic year tuition for full-time students at the state's
12 institutions of higher education beginning with 2009-10, other than
13 summer term, shall be as charged during the 2008-09 academic year
14 unless different rates are adopted by the legislature.

15 (5) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not apply
16 to high school students enrolling in participating institutions of
17 higher education under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400.

18 (6) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not apply
19 to eligible students enrolling in a community or technical college
20 under section 4 of this act for the purpose of obtaining a high school
21 diploma.

22 (7) For the academic years 2003-04 through 2008-09, the University
23 of Washington shall use an amount equivalent to ten percent of all
24 revenues received as a result of law school tuition increases beginning
25 in academic year 2000-01 through academic year 2008-09 to assist needy
26 low and middle income resident law students.

27 ~~((7))~~ (8) For the academic years 2003-04 through 2008-09,
28 institutions of higher education shall use an amount equivalent to ten
29 percent of all revenues received as a result of graduate academic
30 school tuition increases beginning in academic year 2003-04 through
31 academic year 2008-09 to assist needy low and middle-income resident
32 graduate academic students.

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